



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7350 | FAX (517) 373.9228

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/

For Immediate Release
September 23, 2005

Contact: Christopher Kelley
Phone (517) 373-7350

Win-win license plate solution proposed

LANSING – Before a legal ‘sunset’ puts out the lights on an important source of funding for historic lighthouses, public universities and other special interest groups, Senator Bruce Patterson has stepped in to ensure continued production of specialty fundraising license plates.

Senate Bill 248 would remove the Oct.1 sunset and remove a limit on the number of specialty plates in Michigan. This will allow for the creation of fundraising plates for additional interest groups. New groups interested in creating a specialty license plate would be required to pay a \$15,000 one-time fee to cover the start-up costs

“Taking a business-like approach will benefit the state,” said Patterson. “New applicants would be able to design a plate because my bill removes the risk to the state when making new plates because the start-up cost is borne by the applicants.”

Patterson explained that groups like Ducks Unlimited, a leading wetlands conservation group, have wanted a license plate, but could not get one due to the current limit.

He continued, “Wetlands will benefit from expanded license plate sales. Our wetlands are essential components of a healthy environment, cleaning water through natural filtration, and preventing erosion, as well as providing habitat for all manner of God’s creatures. Healthy wetlands balance our world. Sale of these plates will fund these and other worthy projects. This will move Michigan’s environmental preservation forward at a much quicker pace. And it won’t be only the ducks that benefit from this.”

The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

###